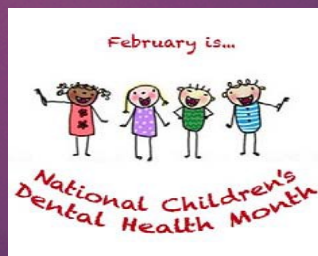


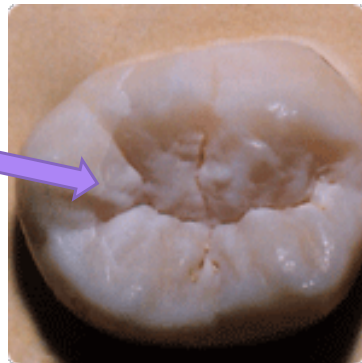
Dental Sealants



Presentation 3

Why are sealants needed?

- ▶ Cavities are mostly found on chewing surfaces. Almost three quarters of all cavities in children's teeth are on chewing surfaces!
- ▶ Chewing surfaces are at risk because they have deep pits and fissures where germs and food can hide (see the arrow below).



Before



After



How are sealants placed?

- ▶ **Placing dental sealants is really quick and easy!**
- ▶ **Your dentist, dental hygienist, therapist, or dental assistant will prepare the tooth by cleaning the chewing surface.**
- ▶ **Then he/she will place the sealant material – which can be clear, white, or even pink – on the tooth.**
- ▶ **Sometimes, he/she will shine a light on the tooth to harden the sealant material.**



Who needs to get a sealant?

- ▶ **Adults or children who may be at high risk for tooth decay.**
- ▶ **If you or your child has had a previous cavity, a sealant may be needed.**
- ▶ **Your dentist, dental hygienist, therapist, or dental assistant will let you know if a dental sealant is recommended for your child.**

When does my child need to get a dental sealant?

- ▶ Dental sealants can be applied at any time, but they're best applied soon after a tooth erupts.
- ▶ A special kind of dental sealant can even be placed on primary (baby) teeth to help prevent cavities.
- ▶ Children as young as one year old have received dental sealants!





How do I get more information about sealants?

- ▶ **Talk to your dental health care professional today!**